648 727 important effects on contemporary al-Qasr. There remain about 11 million land mines in the ground between Marsa Matruh and Sallum. Accidents connected with these mines take one thousand Bedouin lives every year, and cause about 10,000 injuries annually. (Reported in al-Ahram, January, 1965). This danger limits the areas in which the Bedouins can use the tractor, and, as a result, a great deal of the coastal land must be plowed by hand. In al-Qasr, physical disfigurements resulting from mine mishaps were quite common, and most families have had members killed in this way. In one al-Qasr lineage, 'Ailit Ma'fas, there have been sixteen men killed by mines since 1943.

Change and Present Attitudes

648 177 Political and economic changes, begun at the turn of the century, have continued into the present. The Bedouins of al-Qasr have been increasingly drawn into the political and economic life of the Egyptian national community. They have come to depend upon the national market for their products and upon governmental agricultural subsidies for their security. The net result of this process has been a sedentary Bedouin society which is not quite tribal and not quite peasant. Al-Qasr has this in-between quality--what Fallers (1961) has called the tertium quid quality.

[829] It is difficult to gauge the feelings of the Bedouins of al-Qasr about the social changes taking place. They complain

233 animals to drink, sat on the edge of the well with his feet in the cool water of the pool completely absorbed in his thoughts amidst the quiet surroundings. Passing by the pool at that time was Mahdi 233 576 from a neighboring tribal segment. Seeing Idris (whom he had not • 165 known), he shouted the customary greeting, "Peace on you." Startled by the voice of Mahdi, Idris lost his balance and fell in the deep water of the pool. Mahdi rushed to help him, but the water was too deep, and Idris drowned. Feeling sorry for Idris, Mahdi took the flock and went back to the camp of Idris where he informed the latter's wife of what had happened. A few days later, Mahdi was 682 627 paid a visit by Sheikh Eleva, the aqila of Bait Asabei' and known [613] mardi in the area who informed Mahdi that the family of Idris was demanding the payment of the sum of L.E. 300 for the death of their 682 627 672 613 relative. A Mi'ad was set for the following week. In that Mi'ad, and after Mahdi admitted that it was his greeting that had startled Idris and caused him to fall in the well, the two Mardis representing the two parties agreed that the payment of the sum of three hundred pounds was in order and that Mahdi and his amar must pay it to the victim's family as soon as possible. At first, Mahdi seemed to accept the judgment of the two Mardis, especially when both were prominant members of some of the influential tribal segments in the area. But Mahdi was a poor man, and his amar was very small in number, which made the payment of the bloodmoney almost impossible. 682 627 672 695 Although appeal in the ordinary legal sense does not exist in such a system like that of Awlad Ali, where no judgment is forced upon any of the disputing parties, and where the pronouncement of the